

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-199



Florence (Northampton)

Address 49 Beacon Street

George A. Burr House

Present use Residence

Present owner Stramese, Nonie F.

Description:

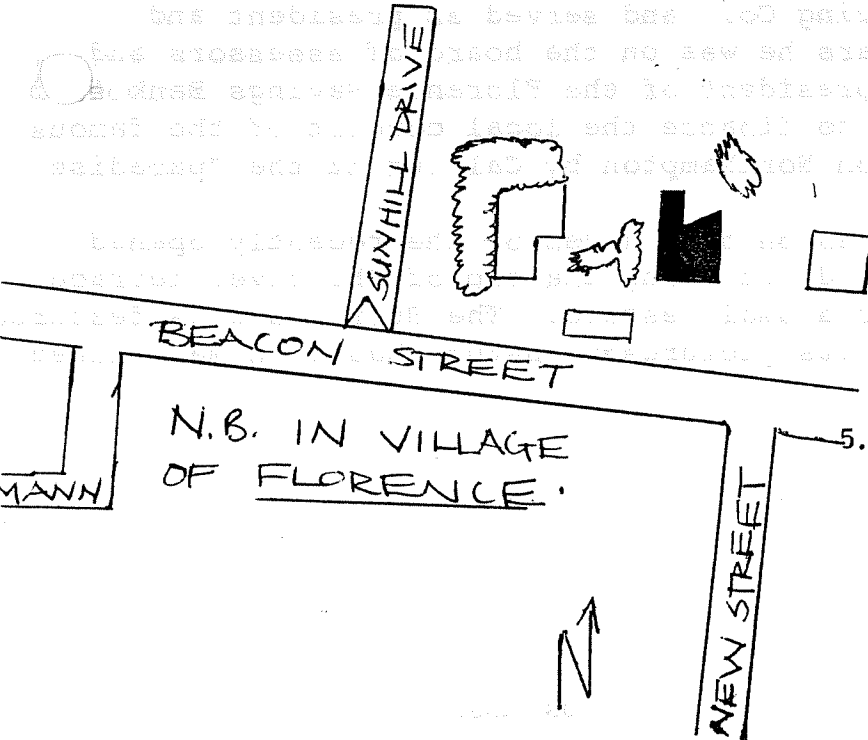
Circa 1870

Source 1873 Atlas of Northampton

Picturesque/Country Villa

Architect Unknown

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Exterior wall fabric Bracketed

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features Palladian window,

stained glass windows, loggia,

dentils

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 144 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

80 feet

6. Recorded by L. Komaromi

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date March 6, 1976

RECEIVED

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

MAY 5 1976

7. Original owner (if known) George A. Burr

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

George Burr came to Northampton in 1843 at the age of 14 and after an apprenticeship as an errand boy, formed a partnership for the purpose of handling coal, flour & grain. After a brief time in New York, he returned to Northampton and was elected general agent of the Florence Sewing Machine Co., and subsequently served as treasurer. He later helped develop the Florence Manufacturing Co., and served as president and treasurer. For a number of years he was on the board of assessors and selectmen, and served as vice-president of the Florence Savings Bank from its inception. He also helped to finance the local concert of the famous Jenny Lind, who left her mark on Northampton by calling it the "paradise of America".

In 1868 Burr bought 8½ acres on both sides of the recently opened street. The street had been laid out along the top of the river terrace and was pleasantly situated for a small estate. The Burr place is featured in the History of Florence and its picturesque nature has been maintained to this day.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- 1860 County Map · 1873, 1884 & 1895 Atlases
- Registry of Deeds: Bk.253-P.217
- History of Florence, ed. by Charles Sheffield, 1895